



Community Appearance Commission

Minutes

August 3, 2005

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, August 3, 2005 at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the Council Chamber, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Greta Connor, Suzette Davis, Judy Kandl, Barbara Lawther, Michael Lippard, Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson, Bill Safrit, and Johnny Safrit

Absent: Cindee Bridges and Chad Morgan

Staff: Lynn Raker and Diana Moghrabi

Barbara Perry, Chair, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the June 1 meeting were approved as written. The Community Appearance Commission does not meet in July.

The financial report for the new fiscal year was accepted.

- There is \$800 in this year's budget for the CAC **general appropriations account**--\$200 less than last year. (Five years ago there was \$1200 in this account.)
- The CAC **programs account** is \$1200 and will pay for various programs, including advertisements for the spring and fall spruce-up. We may want to use some of this money to purchase new "Landscape of the Month" signs.
- **The Municipal Service District (MSD) grants** have been allotted \$22,000 and the **Innes Street grants** have been allotted \$25,000. This is in keeping with the normal allotments.
- The **Awards Program** received \$3500.

Through NC DOT, a SAFE TEA grant for the South Square Street Enhancement Project has been approved. The first phase will be the 100 block of East Fisher and South Lee Streets and one-half of the 200 block of East Fisher. This includes sidewalk improvements, lighting, and landscaping similar to the East Square Project at Council and Liberty Streets. The design phase has begun.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Art in Public Places

- *HAT (History and Art Trail)*. The full committee did not meet in July, but the subcommittees did meet. Barbara Perry reported that the City approved \$20,000 in the General Fund for markers. The goal is to have the first marker (bronze, 24" tall and 32" wide) in the ground this fall. The first marker will be the Theo Buernbaum marker, which will be in the railroad and industrial era. If Council likes this one, the committee will move on to the next.
- Construction of The Freedman's Cemetery Memorial is currently in progress on West Liberty and Church Streets.
- The Gateway Art Installation Project Committee is planning a previously mentioned luncheon October 10 at Park Avenue Community Center. (Foundations and the City gave money for the Park Avenue Community Center.) Representatives from the Woodson Foundation, The Blanche and Julian Robertson Foundation, the Proctor Foundation, and other potential funding partners will be invited to attend.

A selection committee for this privately funded installation is presently being solicited.

- *Mosaic*. Mr. Robert Crum is progressing on the Depot Street Mosaic. He has been working in these high temperatures under a canopy. The CAC needs to raise more money. Fifteen thousand dollars has been raised so far; ten thousand dollars more is needed.

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

- Greta Connor reported on two meetings covering the subject of parking on front lawns. Minutes of these meetings were distributed to the members of the CAC. Photos were taken around the city of cars parked on front lawns.

Lynn Raker sent the goals of the committee to Craig Lewis, consultant from the Lawrence Group, who is currently rewriting the land development ordinance; these goals are to be included in the new ordinance rather than amending the current ordinance.

Barbara Lawther recommended the City of Salisbury provide an alley suitable for parking for the N. Main Street neighborhood to improve the appearance and safety in that historic area.

Many of the City's problems are due to the lack of enforcement of current guidelines and ordinances. The CAC wishes to invite David Phillips and other enforcement staff persons to explain various responsibilities and the lack of enforcement.

- The pocket park on Lincolnton Road was complimented by the committee. It is an enhancement to the area.
- The rear of the furniture company (Horah Street) still looks very bad.

- It was reported that vagrants have been staying in the dumpster area located in the City Hall parking lot.
- Lynn Raker will check with Vernon Sherrill to coordinate the date for the fall cleanup. Once the date is known, information will go out to the neighborhood leaders.
- Greta Connor would like to get back on track with neighborhood entrance signs. A meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 31 at 4 o'clock in the first floor conference room at City Hall.

Landscaping

- *Yard of the Month.* Nominations are necessary. Barbara Perry did not know the address but nominates a home on East Horah Street. Barbara Lawther has admired a house on N. Fulton Street near the Maintenance Department. It has been greatly improved.
- The Landscape Committee will get on a schedule beginning with a meeting Tuesday, August 30 at noon in the first floor conference room at City Hall.
- *Railroad Bridge.* The landscaping at the bridge is doing very well. Many wonderful compliments were offered for the new bridge and its appearance. The City's Landscape Department is doing a wonderful job maintaining the plantings.

Municipal Service District (MSD) and Innes Street Improvement Grants (ISG)

- The deadline for the first round is August 15. A meeting was scheduled for the committee August 16 at noon in the first floor conference room at City Hall.
- The Stitchin' Post Gifts applied for a grant last spring to repaint their building and replace their awning. There was not enough money in the budget at that time, even though the project was approved. The total of the project is \$8600 and they would receive \$2500 based on their building width. They would like to complete this project by their special anniversary in September. Lynn asked the committee to re-authorize this grant (\$2500) out of this year's allocations. The committee agreed to re-authorize the full amount of the grant (\$2500).

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Michael Lippard & Judy Kandl reported on the committee that Council had created to review the downtown sign ordinance. Banners would be allowed for one year on a limited basis and reviewed after one year. It was a fairly divisive decision on the banners. They talked of adding wording that a vertical banner would be allowed every 50 feet. This subject is going to be a challenge.

Parapet signs were not allowed and projecting signs will continue to be discussed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Barbara Perry asked if the city-owned parking lot between Okey Dokey and Dees Jewelers was ever going to see improvements. It could compliment the gateway work that has been recently completed. Lynn Raker recalled funds being earmarked for this purpose several years ago. It has been discussed for years. Barbara Perry understood that it was scheduled to be completed after the parking lot behind the Gateway Building was finished. The CAC needs to follow through with this. Gray Stout did a sketch for striping. It would be terrific if something could be done to visually connect the alley that is located there.

- Someone has purchased the old Bill's Bakery and stabilized the building.
- Barbara Lawther asked if she could switch from the Awards Committee to the Neighborhoods and Education Committee. All agreed that would be fine.
- The house on the corner of Long Street and Park Avenue is an eyesore and the committee wondered what could be done to improve the appearance of the yard—especially the dogs.
- The condition of a house on the corner of Thomas and Church Streets needs to be addressed.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned.

DM